

NEVADA DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
END OF YEAR REPORT
CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 604(b)
C6-97965915

Introduction:

A Clean Water Act, Section 604(b) grant award was made to the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP), Bureau of Water Quality Planning on June 20, 2014 (C6-97965915). Funding under this grant includes FY14 grant funds. The total program funds awarded for this grant is \$100,000. This review covers activities performed by NDEP during SFY15 (July 1, 2014-June 30, 2015).

The 604(b) funds support Nevada's water quality management planning including CWA 208 planning and TMDL/water quality standards' activities. The Grant agreement covers a budget and project period of 7/1/2014 to 6/30/2016 and supports staff activities in SFY15. There is no match requirement. The State must allocate at least 40% of the amount granted to regional public comprehensive planning organizations for water quality. The review is an off-site review.

Results of Review with Recommendations (successes and findings):

1. All tasks funded for SFY15 have been completed or are underway.
2. Equipment purchases were not requested or approved.
3. According to the Compass Data Warehouse, \$71,681 remains available for this grant.
4. Programmatic terms and conditions have been met.
5. Programmatic statutory and regulatory requirements have been met.

Successes:

The following are the State's CWA 604(b) grant workplan commitments and the current progress:

1. **Participate in 3rd Party Truckee River TMDL review and implementation plan.** (ongoing)
Review Truckee River WQS: In January, 2011, the Truckee River third parties initiated discussions with EPA and NDEP on potential revisions to the nutrient water quality standards and the TMDLs. As one of the downstream waters, Lahontan Reservoir has to be considered during the review process. NDEP started a concurrent review of the Lahontan water quality standards (see below). Throughout 2014, NDEP and the third parties held a series of focus group meetings to gather input from stakeholders on the process and model results. In April, 2014, the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe indicated that they were undertaking a review of their Truckee River water quality standards and requested NDEP delay action on the State's standards until the Tribe had completed their review. NDEP agreed to delay completion of the standards until such time that the Tribal review was completed. Project on hold.
2. **Review Lahontan Reservoir Water Quality Standards.** (ongoing)
The water quality standards for Lahontan Reservoir were initially established in 1984 and have not been reviewed since that time. In 2012, NDEP launched the review of these standards by conducting additional monitoring of the reservoir. Focus group meetings were held to discuss the

draft recommendations. The review is on hold while NDEP decides best way to deal with the reservoir nutrient criteria.

3. Review aquatic life temperature criteria: (ongoing)

Nevada's existing aquatic life temperature numeric criteria for both cold and warm water fisheries are in need of evaluation and possible revision. Most of the criteria were established in the early 1980s based on recommendations from the Nevada Department of Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. NDEP is compiling temperature data throughout the state. Background materials on Nevada's temperature standards and temperature criteria development methodologies are being compiled. Watershed characteristics were derived for the monitoring sites and will be used to investigate relationships between stream temperatures and watershed characteristics. A workgroup of fisheries biologists was formed. A methodology to be used for deriving thermal tolerance values is under development.

4. Review State's Dissolved Oxygen criteria: (ongoing)

Current EPA guidance calls for DO criteria for early life stages of coldwater fish that NDEP feels may not be achievable in some locations depending on elevation and stream temperatures. Currently, NDEP has limited continuous DO data and temperature. NDEP plans to collect continuous DO and temperature data to start characterizing the achievability of EPA criteria. In SFY 15, NDEP placed sondes in Mahogany Creek and E. Fork Quinn River in the Black Rock region to collect data during summer, 2015.

5. Assist in development and provide oversight of contract with Clark County for pass through funds: (ongoing)

NDEP entered into a contract with Clark County Board of Commissioners.

Findings: NDEP performed satisfactorily.

Resolution Plan and Timing

None

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Review Date: October 16, 2015